

*Carmel, NY* – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) announced today that he will be sponsoring a grant writing workshop for local fire departments and EMS organizations on FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH in Somers. The workshop, which Hall is co-sponsoring with Northern Westchester Volunteer Fireman's Association Commissioner Adam Ochs and the Department of Homeland Security, aims to educate participants on how to best receive federal funding through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program.

The AFG program's overall mission is to support the needs of firefighters and EMS organizations all around the country. Financial aid for equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed are provided in order to ensure that these organizations are prepared to assist the public and emergency personnel.

"Emergency preparedness, especially at the local level, should be of the highest priority," said Congressman Hall. "Grant workshops will help local fire departments and EMS organizations to obtain the resources they need to keep their communities safe and respond to any potential crises in an efficient, timely, and effective manner."

Representatives from the Department of Homeland Security will be available at the workshop to provide information and updates, discuss recent changes to the grant requirements, and advise local organizations on how best to submit the strongest application possible.

The workshop is open to all fire and emergency officials from the entire area.

Friday, March 14, 2008

7:00 pm

Somers Fire Department - Amawalk Station

1 Liberty Way/2513 Amawalk RD (Route 35)

Amawalk (Somers), NY

914-248-5604

More information on the AFG program is available at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com) .